

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-22. (Canceled).

Claim 23. (New) A portable information terminal, comprising:

a display portion housing comprising a display portion;

an operating portion housing comprising an operating portion;

a link member for connecting an end portion of said display portion housing to an end portion of said operation portion housing:

a mechanism for rotating said display portion housing relative to said operating portion housing around a rotational axis of said link member; and

a spring, disposed around the link member, which biases said display portion housing away from said operating portion housing in a direction parallel to said rotational axis,

wherein said display portion housing and said operating portion housing are rotated relative to each other by said rotating mechanism between a closed state in which said display portion housing is disposed so as to cover said operating portion and an open state in which said display portion housing is disposed so as not to cover said operating portion, a face of said display portion is oriented in the same side as a face of said operating portion at both said closed state and open state, said link member is designed in a form of a cylinder having a guide portion projecting radially outwardly of at least one end thereof, and said display portion housing or operating portion housing is pressed against said guide portion by a biasing force of said spring.

Claim 24. (New) The portable information terminal as claimed in claim 23, wherein said link member has a cavity portion through which passes a communication cable for electrically connecting circuits located in said display portion housing to circuits located in said operating portion housing.

Claim 25. (New) The portable information terminal as claimed in claim 23, wherein said display portion housing is provided with operating keys on the same side as the display portion so that said operating keys are operable under said closed state.

Claim 26. (New) The portable information terminal as claimed in claim 23, wherein said link member has the guide portion at the one end thereof and the other end of said link member is fixed to any one of said display portion housing and said operating portion housing.

Claim 27. (New) The portable information terminal as claimed in claim 23, wherein said rotational axis maintains an acute angle with both the face of said operating portion and the face of said display portion.

Claim 28. (New) The portable information terminal as claimed in claim 23, wherein said guide portion has a groove formed on an outer periphery thereof which extends slightly greater than 180 degrees around said rotational axis, and one of said display portion housing and operating portion housing has a projection which engages said groove so that the rotation between said display portion housing and operating portion housing is limited to approximately 180 degrees.

Claim 29. (New) The portable information terminal as claimed in claim 23, wherein a predetermined angle is formed between the face of said operating portion and the face of said display portion under said open state.

Claim 30. (New) The portable information terminal as claimed in claim 29, wherein the predetermined angle is within the range of about 110 to 180 degrees.

Claim 31. (New) The portable information terminal as claimed in claim 30, wherein the predetermined angle is within the range of about 130 to about 170 degrees.